

SECRET**PRIORITY**

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PRIORITY

OXCART

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF BLACK SHIELD MISSION BX6853

1. CAMERA TYPE I (115-A) UNIT F WAS USED ON MISSION BX6853 FLOWN 19 FEBRUARY 1968. BOTH CAMERAS OPERATED SATISFACTORILY THROUGHOUT THE MISSION.

2. RESOLUTION IS GOOD THROUGHOUT THE MISSION. THE BEST RESOLUTION IS ESTIMATED [REDACTED] BAR PLUS SPACE) IN THE NEAR VERTICAL PORTIONS OF THE AFT CAMERA FORMATS. THE RESOLUTION OF THE FORWARD CAMERA IS NOT AS GOOD AS THE AFT CAMERA AND THE BEST IS ESTIMATED [REDACTED]

3. EXPOSURE IS SATISFACTORY THROUGHOUT THE MISSION. SOME SNOW COVERED AREAS DID NOT RECEIVE OPTIMUM EXPOSURE, BUT IN CONSIDERING THE OVER-ALL SCENE (SNOW AND NON-SNOW COVERED AREAS), THE MISSION MATERIAL IS JUDGED TO HAVE RECEIVED ADEQUATE EXPOSURE.

4. EVERY FOURTH AFT FRAME IS ONE DEGREE SHORT, I.E., THE SCAN ENDS AT 66 DEGREES RATHER THAN 67 DEGREES. THE REMAINING THREE OUT OF FOUR AFT FRAMES ARE OF SATISFACTORY LENGTH.

5. TWO 3 INCH LONG BANDS CONSISTING OF NUMEROUS EMULSION SCRATCHES ARE PRESENT ON FRAME 686. A SMALL PIECE (ABOUT 0.06 X 0.06 INCH) OF EMULSION HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM THE BASE ON FRAME 545.

6. THE DATA BLOCK ENCROACHES SLIGHTLY INTO THE FORMAT OF EVERY FOURTH AFT FRAME BETWEEN FRAMES 1-100. SUCCESSIVE FORWARD/AFT FRAMES OVERLAP 0.06 TO 0.1 INCH INTERMITTENTLY BETWEEN FRAMES 641 THROUGH 732.

7. ALL DATA CHAMBER RECORDINGS WERE OPERATIONAL THROUGHOUT THE MISSION. THE DATA CHAMBER IMAGES WERE READABLE BUT NOT ALWAYS SHARP. THE INS TAPE TO FILM CORRELATION IS SATISFACTORY.

8. THE TIMING MARKS ON THE TITLED EDGE OF FORWARD FRAMES ARE FAINT ON THE ORIGINAL NEGATIVE. THESE TIMING DOTS ARE DIFFICULT TO SEE ON THE DUPLICATE POSITIVE AND IN SOME CASES, CANNOT BE DETECTED (E.G., FRAME 165).

9. NO APPRECIABLE DIFFERENCE IN IMAGE QUALITY IS NOTED BETWEEN THE ZERO PRIORITY POSITIVES AND THE ZI PRODUCED POSITIVES.

10. CLOUDS OBSCURE APPROXIMATELY 55 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL MISSION TAKE; HOWEVER, PHOTOGRAPHY OVER THE LAND AREA WAS APPROXIMATELY 65 PERCENT CLOUD-FREE.

S E C R E T

-- END OF MESSAGE --

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